

Friday, October 21, 2005



Wisconsin Bus Crash Investigation

The National Transportation Safety Board launched a team of accident investigators to I-94, near Osseo, Wisconsin, where a motorcoach carrying high school students collided with a jackknifed tractor-trailer on Sunday, October 16, about 2 a.m., CDT. Five motorcoach occupants were killed in the accident, and 30 people were injured. The vehicle was part of a four-motorcoach caravan returning from a band competition at the University of Wisconsin, White Water. The Investigator-in-Charge is Dave Rayburn from the Arlington, Texas, regional office; other team members include Robert Acetta, Erik Grosf, Hank Hughes, Jim LeBerte, Jennifer Russert, Burt Simon, and Dan Walsh.

Left front end of accident vehicle that was transporting students on school activity trip.

Arkansas Freight Train Collision Investigation

The National Transportation Safety Board launched an accident investigation team on Saturday, October 15, to the scene of a collision between two Union Pacific freight trains in Texarkana, Arkansas. The collision, which occurred about 4:46 a.m., CDT, breached a tank car carrying propylene, a highly flammable chemical, which ignited. The ensuing fire damaged several homes, and authorities evacuated part of the surrounding area. The fire resulted in at least one fatality; the two train crews were not injured. Ted Turpin from the Safety Board's Gardena, California, regional office is the Investigator-in-Charge; other team members include Bob Campbell, Tom Lasseigne, and Crystal Thomas.

Russian Aviation Official Visits NTSB

On Tuesday, October 18, Dr. Tatyana Anodina, Chairperson and Minister of the Interstate Aviation Committee (IAC) of the Russian Federation, met with Acting Chairman Mark Rosenker to discuss topics of mutual concern. These included foreign accident investigations, areas of joint cooperation, possible staff exchanges, and the 1998 Memorandum of Understanding between the United States and the Russian Federation. Acting Chairman Rosenker expressed the Safety Board's appreciation for the cooperation between the two countries since the memorandum was signed. Dr. Anodina also briefed Rosenker on the organization of the IAC and on Russian commissions and offices responsible for aviation activities.



*Acting Chairman Mark Rosenker, Dr. Anodina, and Bob MacIntosh,
NTSB Chief Advisor, International Safety Affairs.*

NTSB ACADEMY Offers Continuing Education Units



Brenda Yager (ACD), Kathy Silbaugh (ACD and GC), Acting Chairman Mark Rosenker, Chairman Designate Ellen Engleman Connors, Julie Beal (ACD) and Don Chupp (ACD) with the certificate from the IACET authorizing the NTSB Academy to issue CEUs for designated courses.

The International Association for Continuing Education and Training (IACET) has authorized the NTSB Academy to award Continuing Education Units (CEUs) to all participants who successfully complete an Academy course. The IACET is a nonprofit association that grew out of a 1968 National Task Force on continuing education commissioned by the Bureau of Education (now the Department of Education); it authorizes education providers that meet certain strict guidelines to administer IACET CEUs. More than 650 businesses, government agencies, higher education institutions, organizations, and individuals are members of the IACET.

To obtain authorization to administer the CEUs, the NTSB Academy was required to submit a 27-part application. Two IACET board members reviewed the application and submitted a positive recommendation to the board. The IACET then conducted a site visit to assess the Academy campus and examine three sample courses, including course development procedures and completion criteria. During the visit, the IACET team praised the Academy for submitting an excellent application and provided Academy staff with standardization guidelines to ensure that future courses meet IACET criteria.

Participants who successfully complete CEU-eligible courses will receive 1 CEU for every 10 hours of class participation. Many organizations and agencies use these credits for staff development, and individuals use them to maintain professional certifications. CEUs are widely recognized in North and South America. The Academy will issue a transcript with the IACET seal and a certificate to participants who successfully complete the courses.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Member Hersman and her husband Niel Plummer, whose son, Jackson Pierce Plummer, arrived on October 8, 2005, at 11:05 a.m. The newest addition to the NTSB family weighed 8 pounds, 11 ounces, and measured 21.5 inches long.



"Be An Everyday Hero"



The NTSB held its Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) Kick Off on Thursday, October 20, 2005. The theme of this year's campaign is that, through the CFC, we all have the chance to be everyday heroes—by making a contribution, by serving as a volunteer, and by taking the time to help others. Through selfless actions such as these, we provide critical support to those organizations working every day to improve the lives of others. Last year the generosity of Safety Board staff allowed the agency to exceed its goal by more than \$10,000. Recent natural disasters have made being an "everyday hero" even more vital to the welfare of many who are in need. The campaign is under way and will end on January 6, 2006; our goal this year is \$70,000. Please contact your office Key Worker to find out how you can give.

Update on Most Wanted Safety Recommendations

Advocacy staff have been active on several fronts recently to build support for safety recommendations to the States. Acting Chairman Rosenker and Bill Gossard met with Virginia officials to promote the adoption of boating safety measures by the State legislature. Steve Blackistone testified on graduated driver licensing (GDL) and other recommendations before the Kentucky Joint Health and Welfare Committee. Danielle Roeber gave a presentation on State legislative processes and priorities to the SafeKids Worldwide annual conference. Kevin Quinlan participated in a multiple-agency conference on the future direction of GDL that led to agreements on sharing data and information on legislation. Acting Chairman Rosenker, Bruce Magladry, and Kevin Quinlan met with Cellular Telephone Industry Association executives regarding support for cell phone restrictions on young novice drivers.

Two States have acted on bills related to safety recommendations in the past 2 weeks. The Massachusetts House passed a bill containing multiple measures related to hard core drinking driving. The Michigan House Judiciary Committee passed the novice driver cell phone restriction bill.